HARRISON THE SILENT. A STATESMAN WHO KEEPS HIS OWN COUN-

WORKING HARD TO SERVE THE NATION WELL, BUT GRATIFYING LITTLE THE SURI-OSITY OF VISITORS.

[FROM A S.AFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE FRIBURE.]
Indianapolis. Jan. 18.—No other quality, perhaps, of the President-elect has impressed itself upon the pullic so forcibly since he election as complete ability to keep his own secrets. His silence about his Cabinet and his policy has not been an ingrained taciturning like Grant's, whose military instinct loved surplises and shrank from the divulgence of an ophion before the time for action had arrived. General Harrison's retiveness has a double root. It is, in part, the natural reserve of a cool and imperturbable temper. But more than that it is the ripened fruit of long and thorough political training. hind this practised mast caution, patience and hard work have been doing what they can to insure a model Cabinet and a successful Administration. But so far the mask has been im-The Cabint problem is as great a mystery as ever. Thoe who get closest to the ifidence wil tell you that so far as they know not a single head of a Department has been chosen. Within a week the President-elect has been credited witl saying that he has not yet ationed the name of a member of his Cabinet

To keep a secret o long and so completely, and gainst such enormous pressure from the outide, has been in iself a good-sized achievement. bably a thousand skilled politicians have been here trying for tie last three months to get some of General Harrison's plans and purposes. It is safe to say that not one has gone away from Indiampois really satisfied that he knew anything definie about the Cabinet or the policy of the next Alministration. One political pilgrim has gotter one hint, another another. Generally the hins, put side by side, have seemed contradictory, ind if the experts, as a rule, have compared nots further they have mournfully ed, in thelanguage of two discomfited New-York State Sentors who were here a month ago: We are not ig enough politicians to come out Indianapos and make General Harrison's Cabinet for hm.".

There havebeen other visitors here, guests invited by the icneral, who might have been supposed to shar his secrets without a question, but who, apparenty, did not get much further into the mystery I the Cabinet than the average ex-Take for instance, the Vice-Presidentchatting quidy in the library at the General's Mr. forton had long practised a successful silence and his relations with the coming Administratio were close enough, perhaps, to justify any enfidences about the Cabinet that might have len offered. Yet, after a stay of ree days, ti Vice-President-elect is known to have gone awy scarcely any wiser as to General Harrison's intitions than when he came. At a dinner party i New-York since Christmas he said smilingly to ewell-known New-York Republican who has beeniere within the week that he had not been ableo sound the President-elect on his choice for a ngle one of the Cabinet Departments. Gener Harrison has said recently that no part of hi Cabinet had been selected then. But it is signicant of the President-elect's deliberativeness ad caution that fully five weeks after the electa Mr. Morton could not get, as he sed, even inkling of what General Harrison's final deebn on the Cabinet question would

Senator Que too, made the journey here from Washington affereral Harrison's invitation, and his talk withthe President-elect, which lasted about three ours, was presumably exhaustive and confider. When he came down to the New Denisorotel, suffering from a racking headache, he sa the conference was "satisfactory."

Just in whiway it was satisfactory to the chairman of thNational Committee has never been fully expired. Confidence in the success of his efforto get John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, o the Cabinet has increased since the and day he p Indianapolis. But, after all, rumors bour every 1 weeks that the Pennsylvania Senator's visit seled nothing, and that Mr. Quay himself had wipered among his closest friends the secret of high success. A definite report to that effect has in brought here within a few days by the epublican who repeated Mr. Morton's good-

Tall this maze of uncertainty as to the caset there are still a few comforting guidefor speculation. General Harrison does ocmally drop a hint that may be taken at a pine valuation. He said last Monday, in two rate talks with the New-Yorkers who were ye. that the Empire State could scarcely exet to get the Secretaryship of the Treasury. hat great Department would go to the West, and ew-York would have to be satisfied with the artment of War or of the Navv. It is a fair ection from this stateme it that the Secretaryhip of State is to go to the East, perhaps to Newengland. That would leave one Department for Pennsylvania, one for the South, and two additional ones for the West, with the chance of bree if the Department of Agriculture is raised to the rank of the other Departments. A rough mess like this is, of course, all that is warranted by the present situation.

Arthur E. Bateman, ex-Commodore of the American Yacht Club, banker, railread man and justling politician, was telling some good stories ere last Monday in the intervals of his work for Warner Miller. One of two given below is at Mr. Bateman's own expense; the other is at that of Senator John Sherman. Mr. Bateman was one of the managers of Mr. Sherman's campaign for the Republican nomination in 1880 and got to Chicago several days before the National Convention was to meet. He was looking around for headquarters and getting ready generally for a canvass of the delegations, when a dignified plored man, dressed in broadcloth and wearing a high silk hat, came into his rooms and introduced himself. The visitor said he was a Mr. Blank, one of the delegates from Arkansas. He and a lot of other Southern delegates, also colored, down at a small hotel, and they were going to have a dance that night. The Arkansas man was enxious to see the dance a success and was looking for patronage.

Mr. Bateman slipped into the back room, took out a directory of the delegates, and found a name corresponding to his caller's in the list from

"That's right, keep 'em dancing," he sald, com-

back again. "Here's a twenty-dollar bill.
p 'em dancing till morning." Next day the Arkansas delegate came around and reported a growing interest among his friends erman's candidacy. They were to have a ome more dancing. Another twenty-dollar bill ment fato the treasury of the excursion party. There were three or four more pleasure trips during the week, and the Sherman boom was making great progress. One day at headquarters Mr. Sateman was introduced to a sad-faced, electical-scaling negro, a delegate from Arkansas. The same of the stranger struck him as familiar. You don't ment to say that you are Delegate Mark," he exclaimed. "Yessir, I hab dat honor," replied the negro. "Hyar am my credentials." The credentials were all right. Mr. Bateman sever saw the fictitious delegate again. He distovered afterward that the first Mr. Blank was not an Arkansan at all, but a smart Chicago where. were three or four more pleasure trips dur-

open bosom, a soft hat and a turn-down collar.

"You're making my husband look like a regular politician, Senator," said Mrs. Bateman.

"Yes," added Bateman himself, "you ought to get me a big diamond pin for my shirt front and then I would be ready to do business."

There were several ladies present, and the Senator shook his head warningly, and then beckoned his political agent aside.

"Bateman," said he, looking the banker over with all seriousness and a slight tone of reproach, "I don't think you really need that pin."

MONEY IN BASEBALL.

WEALTHY MANAGERS AND PDAYERS. RARE TALES OF A HARD-HEADED CATCHER-

NOTES AND COMMENTS. John B. Day, the popular president of the New-York Baseball Club, has been confined to his house by illness for a week. His sickness resulted from overwork and too close attention to the various business ventures in which he is interested. Every friend of outdoor sports, which he is interested. Let the railing spirit of and especially baseball, trusts that the railing spirit of the Gints will quickly recover h's usual good health. Mr. Day has probably done more to make baseball popular in this city than any man riving. He has been fortunate, too, in many of his ventures and has made a good deal of money. He has also lost much money said to have lost many thousand dellars—probably in the neighborhood of \$20,000—on the Metropolitan club in its last year of existence as a baseball nine in this city. Mr.

last year of existence as a baseball nine in this city. Mr. Day's regular business is that of a tobacconist, and by close attention to this calling he has made a fortune. Probably no man is held in higher esteem in the baseball profession than Mr. Day. He has always been the players' friend, and designing managers wishing to make rules which would work to the injury of a player always found in him an obstinate fee to their schemes. Mr. Day's physician has prescribed rest and a change of scene, and accompanied by his friend, ex-Assemblyman Joseph Gordon, he will start for Hot Springs in a few Mr. Day is an old-time ball player himself, but of the silk-stocking order. He was formerly a pitcher of some skill. Next to buseball, the president of the of some skill. Next to baseball, the president of the Champions likes bowling. He is one of the best amateur bowlers in the city and is an enthusiastic member of one of the Harlem clubs. Mr. Day can also knock the billiard balls around with considerable skill. In the National Baseball League his name is always prominent, and if he desired an office he could have any one in the gifs of that organization.

Chris Von der Ahe, in Astrachan overcoat and scalskin cap, has frequently of late been a conspicuous figure in the corridors of the Grand Central Hotel. He speaks in the corridors of the Grand Central Hotel. He speaks with a strong German twang, and is so liberal in his dealings that there is always great joy among the waiters of the hotel when it becomes known that he has telegraphed shead for rooms. Von der Ahe is the owner of the St. Louis club, and is one of the peculiar figures in baseball. Louis club, and is one of the peculiar figures in baseball. His club has wen the championship of the Association so frequently, that the pennant is no longer a novelty in St. Louis. His team last year was generally rated a third-class one, and yet it won the pennant easily. Other club-owners joke at Von der Ahe's peculiarities, but the willy German takes the jeers good-naturedly. He pays them back for their insolence in his own peculiar way. About ten years ago Von der Ahe started in business in St. Louis with a keg of beer and a few classes. He set up business elect. Mr. Mrton, and Senator Quay. Mr. and Mrs. Motton ame to Indianapolis at the special invitation of he President-elect, and the two successful candidtes were thrown together for hours, taking long ulks about the city, or smoking and chatting quidy in the library at the Court of the creeking all the agency of the creeking and is also a power in local politics. In view that the graph of the creeking and is also a power in local politics. of his excessive liberality, his jump to wealth is re-markable. If he has more than he wants, he would just as soon share a quart bottle of champagne with the hallboy as with the Prince of Wales.

The writer walked into a downtown billiard-room the The writer walked into a downtown billiard-room the other day and found William Holbert, the catcher, and ex-Manager Harry Spence, of the Indianapolis club, knocking the ivory balls about the green cloth-covered table. When the game was finished they began to discuss the National game, as enthusiasts will when they come to-

"Catching to-day ain't what it used to be," said the veteran Holbert, "although it is hard enough new. When I first began catching in '76 we did not have those When I first began extening in '76 we did not have those 'g padded pillows to put on our hands, as they do now. Why, after a game in those days my hands would be swollen up to twice their natural sire, while the palm and back of the band would be blue and black and so numb that I would not have fels it if you had chopped it off with a hatchet. Why, in those days my hands would become perfectly numb after the second inning, and after that I would catch mechanically, actually not feeling the ball when it struck my hands."

the ball when it struck my hands."
"It is fortunate." suggested Spence, "that they did not have such speedy pitchers in those days as Crane,

not have such speedy pitchers in those days as created from the Ginn's thunderbolt."

"Yes, but they did," said Holbert. "I was playing in the Louisville club in '76 and caught for Jim Dovlin. Deviln was then in his prime and sent a ball over the blate with just as much speed as Crane does now. He was a good pitcher, one of the best this country hac ever produced. In my dozen years as a professional player I was never knecked out but once, and that was in a rather peculiar way, the secident winning us one of the best games on record. It was the first year I played there, and the game was with the Cincinnati club, the deadliest and the game was with the Cincinnati club, the deadliest of enemies of the Louisville nine. It was in the tenth inning with the score at 6 to 6. Devlin patched an apparently slow ' hoop' ball to the batter, and a foul tip resuited. The ball struck me in the middle of the forehead, and I fell over unconscious. The ball after striking me down by a foul tip once when playing with the old Mets, but it did not hurt me much. It was in 1884, and the Giants' great pitcher, Timothy Keefe, was in the box. By the way, I was again pitted against the Porkopolitans. Keefe put one of his speedy curves over the plate, and the foul tip which resulted hit me in the head. The ball bounded into the air, and Esterbrook, who was then playing third-base for the Metropolitans, caught the ball be-fore it touched the ground and retired the player."

If all clubs had as many wise heads as the New-York club, there would be less trouble between players and clubs. Most of the old players of the New-York nine are well-to-do financially. A person familiar with the men says they are worth anywhere from \$5,000 to \$40,000 each. Keefe and Richardson are players any club might be proud of. Each has laid by a goodly por-tion of a handsome salary for several years. Richardson ion of a nandsome salary for several years. Incharaced is a member of the dry-goods firm of Shean, Dean & Co., of Elmira, and may yet be a merchant prince. Keefe will shortly open a sporting goods store in Broadway. If some of the many players who put money in liquoratores would follow the good example of Keefs and "Danny." the profession would be better off. It is a players who have opened liquor-stores, not one has met with much success. Baseball and whiskey never have gone well together, and never will.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Brooklyn players will do less gymnasium work this spring than usual.

It is still undecided whether the Giants will be taken to Cuba or not next month.

Wagenhurst may make a good player, but few people

think that he will ever be a Ward, Williamson, Denny,

think that he will ever be a Ward, Williamson, Denny, Smith or Wise.

The Staten Island Gub may wish it never saw Catcher Carr. The Nassau club certainly did. Carr received \$5 a game when playing with the "Indians."

Superintendent Bell, of the Polo Grounds, officiated as manager of the Glants during the time that Manager Mutrie was in Bermuda about three years ago. One of his official acts was to give "Tom" Deasley a severe thrashing and when he got through fined Deasley \$200 for insubordination. Bell is said to be the only manager who ever

tion. Bell is said to be the only manager who over got the best of that erratic catcher. The Brooklyn players will report for duty between March 15 and 23. The men will take their early practice on the Parade Grounds at Prespect Park, Brooklyn.

Timothy Keete has property in Cambridge valued at \$30,000. He has a comfortable sum in the bank, besides. It may spoil the effect, but it is neverthetess true.

that he did not make all his money out of baseball. He inherited about half of it. The resident players in Brooklyn have taken to bicycle riding with a vengeance. Generally a spin through Prospect Park is taken, but occasionally Terry and Busheng send their steel steeds clear to Coney Island

and back.

The American Association has wisely determined to discontinue its special meetings. The slightest pretext was solficient to cause the calling of one of these meetings. They were not only useless, but costly.

Clarke and Smith are the only two Brooklyn players not signed. A slight difference about salary is the rouble.

Not only Mutrie, but Keefe, thinks that Crane is the

coming pitcher of the country. Under the new rules Grane's terrific speed in pitching will win many a game for the championa.

Hatfield is not the only fielder in the country who thinks he is a pitcher. The ambition of nearly every neider is to be a pitcher, and nine-tenths of them think they are undiscovered phenomenous.

SOME IMPERIAL CHILDREN.

"When Prince Henry of Prussia was a little boy, he had a greut dislike to the shower hath, which he was expected to take every morning, and was often very liresome about it. At last the attendant complained to his father, who was then Crown Prince, and afterward became the Emperor Prederick. Now, the Crown Prince happened to know that his little son took quite as much delight in seeing the soldiers present arms to him as my little boy thinks he would; so he gave two new orders that day; one was that the guards were not to salute Prince Honry, the other was that the boy need not have his shower hath. Accordingly the next morning the little Prince was surprised and charmed to find that the moment he began grunbling about the bath he was told that he could please himself as to whether be took it or not. Of course he preferred to leave it alone, and as soon as he was dressed he scampered down to the park, and then to the guard-house, as usual. To his great amazement, the soldiers took no more notice of him than if he had been a little street boy. Highly in-

dignant, Prince Henry ran to his father to complain.

Oh!? replied the latter, 'how can you expect the soldlers to respect a dirty unwashed prince?' A chubby little youngster who had declared that it was his opinion that princes could do exactly as they liked, when they liked, and indeed had muttered something about chopping off people's heads, seemed to think this was quite a new way of treating a prince. The prince took his bath without a word next morning, so that the soldfers might respect him and solute him again."

There is also an amusing story about the little Crown Prince, who is now nearly seven years old. "When he was six, he was given a bedroom to himself, instead of sleeping in the nursery; and what do you think he said when he was first taken to his new room? 'Oh! that is nice; now I need not be with the children any more?' He seemed a manly little follow. For he complained one day it is very unpleasant to have to go out with the governess, because she could not march at all, and he could not keep step with her. Then he added, very seriously, that he was quite sure that she would never make a soldier."

The Crown Prince and his three brothers—Frederick, Adalbert, and Augustus William, aged respectively five years, four years and nearly two years—love to play at soldiers. They have a splendid collection of tin soldiers, horses, guns, and fortresses, and an old soldier who fought many a real battle teaches them how to drill them all, and how to fight with them. Tho soldiers are painted like the different regiments, and the three eldest boys are dressed in uniform when they play with them. They do not go to school, but they have a kind mitor, Herr Schubart, who has taught the two eldest to rea.' and write. In the summer of 1886 the Princes had a delightful holiday with their mother at a beautiful place called Oberhof, in the great forest of Thuringia. A little fortress was built for them in the corner of the garden, with a tent and two small guns. The three cleast Princes, who were dressed as officer

SOME THEATRICAL PEOPLE.

THE COST OF A GREAT PLAY. Abbey, Schoeffel & Grau expended \$23,000 in the production of "Antony and Cleopatra" at Palmer's Theatre. The cost of such scenery as that of Cleopatra's palace is enormous, to say nothing of the costumes worn by the leading characters. The public love to see a play well mounted. Many persons who care little for theatricals are regular attendants at the theatres about town. They go to see the stage settings, to criticise or admire the pictures painted by Harley Merry. Much of the best scenery used here noney by getting it abroad. But precious little imported scenery goes on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House. Director Stanton stands by his painters and keeps a large staff busy at great expense.

Richard Barker retired temporarily from the stage anagement of the Casino last night to accept an engagement with Mrs. Langtry, at the Fifth Aven Theatre, where he will superintend the production of Macbeth. After the curtain had been rung down for the last time on "The Yeomen of the Guard" the comthrough Manager Aronson, with a handsome travelling bag and bid him godspeed. The bag contained every little convenience that a man should need on a journey and a gold plate on the side bore this inscription "Presented to Richard Barker, esq., by the manage Casino opera companies, as a testimonial of respec for his efforts in the production of Yeomen of the Guard; January 19, 1880." Barker came here from England to bring out "Erminie," and remained to look after " Nadjy" and " The

Dion Boucleault's heart is young still, but old age has its grip on his face and figure. The shoulders begin to stoop, the silken hair is white as the driven a long life may be counted in the crowsfeet around his eyes. He desires to sell his plays because he is tired of barnstorming, and wants to settle down and devote his remaining years to the school of acting at the Mailson Square Theatre. Though not having forsworn the stage, it is not likely that he will return to it, yet it is said that even now he is writing a new play, in which he will appear in public for the last time, to say farewell. Mr. Boucleault believes that there is a great deal of money to be made out of the plays he intends to sell as soon as Henry E. Walton can be put out of the way. While he produced them he realized over \$1,250,000 out of em, and he thinks that some younger man should take hold and reap another harvest. on the plays is \$1,500 apiece. If any young actor thinks he can make a first-class Conn. here is an opportunity to pick up "The Shanghraun." But it is not likely that the stage will produce another Conn

Members of the theatrical profession who have taken notice of the matter are agreed that the strango ded high into the air, and Deviln ran up and caught conduct of John A. Mackay in running away from "A fright, as intimated in The Tribune the morning after his disappearance. Mackay's mother sent to his boarding-house a day or two ago and had his trunk removed to her home in Brooklyn, where the alleged ector is now supposed to be. Older and abler men support him. Probably he has had his last chance as a "star." An easy victim to stage fright is, wonderful to tell, the veteran John Gilbert. In the lan-guage of one of his mast ardent admirers, Mr. Gilbert ury, yet on occasions he has been so disconcerted by the persistent gaze of a person on the stage or in the audience as to forget his lines. Henry E. Dixey suffers in the same way, and even Lawrence Barrett has been known to hesitate through embarrassment from one cause or another.

MRS. HARRISON'S GOOD TASTE.

MRS. HARRISON'S GOOD TASTE.

From The New-York Sun.

Mrs. Harrison has from the very start determined that she would keep her part of the Administration entirely clear from politics. Her invariable reply to the hundreds who have written soliciting her influence for some appointment has been that she had nothing to do with politics or offices. So far as the social obligations imposed upon her by the official position of her husband are concerned, they will be scrupiously fulfilled without regard to personal feeling. If she has any personal likes or dislikes they will be exercised outside of the range of her official social duties.

It is the same with the wine question, the bustle question, and a score of other questions upon one side

will be exercised outside of the range of her official social duties.

It is the same with the wine question, the bustle question, and a score of other questions upon one side or other of which Mrs. Harrison's influence is continually being sought. "It was not I that the people elected President," she put if once, "but the General I don't propose to set up at the White House as a dictator of manners or customs. If he wants wine on the table, or if it seems to be necessary for the fulfilment of our obligations to official guests, it shall be there. My personal feelings about it have nothing to do with the matter. And as to bustles, why, if some ladies want to wear them, they can do it, Pm sure, and if others don't want them, why, they needn't; it's none of my business either way."

The dancing question is another with which the women reformers have been trying to worry the wife of the President-elect, but she won't have anything to do with that either. Personally, she likes to dance, and she will dance whenever she feels like it. Other people, she says, are at liberty to dance or not, just as they please.

One peculiar development of Mrs. Harrison's independence of character is a dislike to be copied after or made to set a fashion in dress or manners in, spite of herself. If she gets an idea that women are wearing their hair in a certain way or draping their skirts after a certain fashion just because she does it, she gets provoked, and changes the style of her hair or her skirts at once. There will be no fashions set from the White House while she is there. It is said that recently a hair-dressing establishment in the East sent two women here ostensbly to make money out of the rush of business at the time of the Governor's ball and other social affairs, but really to find out how Mrs. Harrison and the ladies of the Harrison family dressed their hair, so as to get up some new style to be called the "A la Harrison." They were baffled because Mrs. Harrison didn't seem to have any particular style of dressing her h

STABLE INSPECTION DESIRABLE.

From The Boston Post.

A certain gentleman whose stable is situated at some distance from his house having occasion to go there, a very rare occurrence with him, was surprised to find a strange horse lying comfortably in one of the stalls and a herdle in the carriage room cheek by jowl with his brougham. John Coachman, being called upon for an explanation, displayed no little embarrassment, but finally asserted that the intruding properly belonged to a cousin, who had taked the liberty of leaving it in his charge for a few hours while he engaged accommodations elsewhere. My friend suspected that there was more behind, and learned by inquiry that the herdle and the horse had been kept on his premises and at his expense for a month or six weeks. The driver, being a nighthawk, went out with his cab after dark and returned in the small hours of the morning, so that but very few people had seen the piratical turnout entering or leaving the stable. This, no doubt, is an extreme case, but the man who never or very seldom hispects his own horses in their quarters need not be surprised if all does not go well there.

A Prudent Mother.—Clara—Mother, just think of

Mother-What is it, my daughter?

"Charles has insured his life for my benefit for \$50,000."

"He has? Well, now, my daughter, there is no longer any objection to your making him that angel cake you have been talking about."—(Texas Siftings.

OF THE SUBJECT-HOW IT AFFECTS IN-

SURANCE COMPANIES. i The rapid spread of the system of electric lightig, and its adaptation to the needs of small houses well as great, have resulted in its introduction into many dwellings, hotels and public buildings in this and other cities. While no one disputes the convenience of the electric light, and while every one concedes that it possesses many advantages over gas, it is still an interesting question whether its adoption has not increased the danger of fire. Those who have any knowledge of electricity are aware that if its uses are many its perils are also many, the crossing of wires and the formation of short circuits. It must be said, however, that there is a marked diversity of opinion of the risk run by those who use the electric light. Some experts are strong in the belief that the danger of fire is greatly creased by it. Others are of the opinion that its precautions dictated by prudence or required by law are quite sufficient, and that when due attention is given to the work and proper insulation secured there is no more danger, and indeed, not so much, in electric lighting as in lighting by gas.

In order to gain some knowledge on the subject from those whose opinions were worth telling, a Tribune reporter the other day called on a nu of electrical experts, officials of the fire department and insurance men.

AMONG FIXTURE MEN AND ELECTRICIANS. The first visited was the superintendent of one fixtures in the city, whose practical and theoretical knowledge of the subject give his opinions unusual weight. "I wish to introduce my remarks," he said,
"with the general statement that proper insulation and careful work will obviate the danger almost en-tirely, but without this the electric light is undoubtedly sion of wires in the building itself or by a circuit caused by the wire coming in contact with either a gas pipe or a water pipe, a fire can be started in the walls of a house which might make considerable headway before being discovered. For instance, if nail is driven into a wire in the basement, and a second nail pierce the opposite wire on the third story, a short circuit might be formed which would result as stated.

"That reminds me that few of either the electricians or the laymen realize the fact that, in order properly to govern the agent which they are handling, attention must be paid to the minute details. To Illustrate: a connection made by means of a screw or binding post, as it is technically called, unless scrowed tightly and fully binding upon the wire, would cause an are and heating of the wires. If this surplus heat and resistance to the current are not promptly taken up by the device called a 'cut-out,' or safety plug,

"Another source of danger, and one which I have known to cause at least one fire on the east side of the town, is where unused wires on a building have not been properly insulated at the point of exit. lose together, they formed an are and set fire to the woodwork. Particular care should be taken to ins late the wires at the point of entrance to the building, because, if the wires are exposed at or near the point where they enter the room, a heavy rain or dripping water falling upon the space between two wires would again cause an arc, which is always the s of great danger. I have also known much trouble to occur when the arc light current was used, by means of a converter, to supply incandescent lamps. ing upon another, outside of and perhaps at some dis tauce from the building, which can be troublesome at the weak points inside of the building. The same general laws apply to fixtures placed to convey the wires to the lamps. There should be a generous wireway, so that the wires will be in no dangr of being abraded or severed.

"All connections should be carefully soldered and tapped. Where this is not possible, and binding All fixtures should be provided with cul-outs of safety plugs, sufficiently sensitive to any trouble caused within the fixture or at the socket or in the lamp. be carefully insulated from the gas system. This is equally true where the fixtures are connected with is taken, area are certain to result, and consequently, fires. A great field for inventors is open to devise way of running electric wires into houses which will be as safe as gas pipes. There is at present constant danger of injury to the wires inside of plastered walls

from the electric lights, are due to defective insulation or hurried work. Not a great while since there was a fire in the Union Club House, the result of poor insulation, probably caused through dampness in yielding to so shabby a trick as he played on his manager and the members of his company engaged to support him. Probably he has been been allowed by caused through dampness in the walls. I know of another, which was caused by a rat eating off the insulation from the wire. The support him. Probably he has been been allowed as the formed with the matter. under ground and covered with a rubber compound. There is a peculiar little insect there which lives upon this rubber. When the injury was first noticed, it was supposed that decomposition had set in. But examination of the stomach of the insect showed particles of undigested rubber, which clearly proved the cause of the defective insulation. A number of fires resulted in consequence. Temporary connection was made between the electric light wire and telegraph wire, firing the boxes in the office.

"It is a difficult problem, of course, to provide

against such accidents, but perfect insulation would do so. A few years ago, in the putting of an incandescent lamp upon a chandeller, the wire became heated etting fire to the insulation, which was of an inflamabl character-as, of course, it should not be-because of a short circuit in the lamp-holder, and the flame reached the ceiling. Fortunately no damage occurred further than scorching the moulding of the ceiling. Such accidents do not occur so carlly now, because of the improved appliances. Switches or rosettes of porcelain are now made to prevent this.

ELECTRIC CURRENTS AND LIGHTNING.

"Some people think that the presence of electric light wires in a house is more conductve to fire, because wires in a house is more conducte to fire, because of a supposed attracting power for lightning. This, however, is not the case, as there is no affinity between an electric current and a discharge of lightning. From this there is little danger. There is one thing needed, and that is an absolutely fire-resisting covering for insulation. We have not reached perfection in this direction, and there is a great field open to inventors. All ordinary observers will notice along the avenues shreds or rags hanging from the overhead wires, exposing the bare metal. This might easily wires, exposing the bare metal. This might easily form an opportunity for a cross connection with other wires or a grounded fixture and be dangerous to life or property in the neighborhood.

or property in the neighborhood.

"It is the place of the electrical contractor to see that no boit-heads or nails or other entailie substances which might possibly lead to false contact are present. I recall an instance where a servant girl felt an electric shock when turning on the water. Upon investigation, it was found that dampness had destroyed the insulation and the wire came in condestroyed the insulation and the wire came in con-tact with the water-main. Fire might have resulted had it not been discovered. The architect, if made to understand that the house will be lighted by elec-tricity, can preclude many possibilities of danger by tricity, can preclude many possibilities of danger by arranging his plans accordingly. There is one thing which is sometimes overlooked. Water will quench any fire, but where fire is the result of electricity pouring water upon the point of generation will have no effect. In fact, where the potential is very strong it might increase the force of the fire. The most of fectual way is to cut the live wire with a pair of cutting-plyers' having insulated handles. If wires happen to be in a damp wall, there is little telling what they might not come in contact with. Howvision of competent persons, the chances for electric circuits are remote?

Stanford White, the architect, believed the possi-bility of danger to be slight. "That comes," he said, "from contact and the wires catching fire. It can be avoided by so inclosing the wires that if they catch fire they will burn themselves out without injury to the surrounding work. The ordinary practice of hold-ing wires in a wood moulding obviates this to a cer-tain extent, but a much surer way is that of placing wires in a non-combustible material, such as papier mache. A house properly wired in some such way, mache. A house properly wired in some such way, with necessary 'cut-offs' and switches, would be, in my opinion, always safe from any danger of firecriainly quite as much so as the ordinary piped house. There is no reason why the law should not regulate the introduction of electric light in such a way as to insure absolute safety."

A well-known designer of this city, who has had much experience in attaching electric light fixtures.

WIRES AND THEIR DANGER, he said, "cannot be taken in wiring houses for electric purposes. Unless great precaution is used throughout the country in this respect many accidents will occur. It is true the people cannot be educated to this true the people cannot be educated to this at once. I do not think that there is much danger in using the electric wires, if the wiring and invalidation are done properly and carefully, and not hurriedly or under pressure. In this way much had work results and fires will follow necessarily." AMONG THE INSURANCE MEN.

> E. R. Kennedy, of the firm of Weed & Kennedy, fire underwriters, was asked to express his views and to give some of his experiences of fires which had been reported to have originated from electricity by reason of the wires coming in contact with metals in places where the insulating cover was worn away, and thus causing combustion of any inflammable maelectric wires do not necessarily increase the risk of insurance if the equipment is put into the building and protected under the proper rules and regulations of the Fire Underwriters' Association. If proper care is taken to insure insulation the electric light will be less dangerous than gas. Undoubtedly a good many fires have been started from electric light wires, but in most of the cases which occur to me the accidents which have been the causes of fires are not likely to occur again, owing to the great improvement in the equipment which all the electric lighting com-

fixtures for illuminating purposes were what we call combination, that is for both gas and electricity, and the wires ran in contact with the brass fixtures. After the fire which occurred in that building some two years ago, I saw a portion of one of the gas fixtures where an abrasion of the insulation of a wire had caused a leak in the current which had come into contact with the gas fixture and fired the piping, thus setting fire to the gas.

SOME DANGEROUS ARC LIGHTS. "There was another fire in the large retail dry-goods store of Wechsler & Abraham, No. 432 Fulton-st., Breoklyn, where an arc light was used for illuminating a show window. The equipment had been in use over a year when a fire was discovered in the woodwork at the top of the window, where the insulating material had worn away and the naked wire had come in contact with some fron work and caused the fire. One night, in front of a theatre, I noticed an are light suspended over the sidewalk, which, not being properly braced, was swinging with the force of the wind like a big pendulum. At every swing in one direction the lamp came in contact with another wire and shot out a brilliant flash, which, had there been any combustible material at hand, would certainly have set fire to the building. It is only fair to say however, that the electric lighting companies have always shown perfect willingness to co-operate with the fire underwriters in perfecting their systems of equipment so as to avoid the dangers which are only the result of careless or cheap, and in some cases reckless methods."

"Do fire underwriters as a rule think that electric light adds to the risk in effecting insurance?" was asked. material had worn away and the naked wire had

light adds to the risk in effecting insurance? was asked.

"Not necessarily. The Board of Fire Underwriters passed a resolution some years ago that any electric lighting equipment which was in accordance with the standard of safety and rules of the Board was no increase of hazard in insuring the building. Since that time certain discoveries have been made which show that the Board rules were not so complete as they ought to be in order to cover inferior and defective workmanship and materials, and a committee was appointed by the Board which is now engaged in perfecting the rules, and experts are now at work experimenting, with the view of improving the present systems of insulation."

A SURVEYOR POINTS OUT SOME DANGERS. One of the surveyors for the Board of Fire Under-writers was asked whether the electric light in buildings was, in his experience, more dangerous than gas. He said: "The electric light is yet in its infancy, but if proper precautions are taken in laying the wires and the insulation is carefully attended to I think there is no more risk of fire than from gas fixtures. ployment of cheap and inexperienced labor. I have known of bell-hangers being employed who knew ab-

ployment of cheap and inexportenced labor. I have shown of bell-hangers being employed who knew absolutely nothing about electricity. In surveying a building it is impossible to see everything done, and one of the greatest dangers arises from what are called concealed wires, that is, wires which run in the walls and not on the surface or under a moulding.

"The insulating material is liable to get chafed off and leave the wire exposed, and if that part of the wire touches any metal or other conductor a spark will be emitted from which a fire may be started. Electric lighting is so new a system of illumination that time enough has not elapsed to develop its resources, its dangers and the safeguards against them, but the present material used for insulation will lose its power after a lapse of time and thus the danger will be increased. We are now engaged in a series of experiments with a view to finding some insulating material which will be perfect and retain its power. We are also endeavoring to find some process of teating flexible silk cords non-combustible without the chemicals employed affecting the insulating material underneath the silk. I regard the flexible cords as a dangerous method of conveying electricity, as, if they do take fire, they are no better than a slow match. In conjunction with the expert electricitans now experimenting, the float of Underwriters and a committee of architects will revise the rules of the Board regulating the methods of supplying the electric light in buildings, as the old rules, which were framed before so many improvements were invented, do not meet the requirements of the present day."

RULES OF THE BOARD OF UNDERWRITERS.

RULES OF THE BOARD OF UNDERWRITERS. The rules now enforced by the Board of Undergas pipes; that all wires must have a coating of insulating material and another coating of some ma-terial outside to protect the insulation from abrasion; that where electricity is carried into a building from terial outside to protect the insulation from abrasion; that where electricity is carried into a building from outside conductors, a "cut out" must be placed near the entrance of wires; that are light wires shall be at least one foot apart at the entrance to a building and eight inches apart on the inside. Wherever wires are carried through the walls, floors or partitions in buildings, they must be surrounded by a special insulating tube of substantial material. All joints in wires must be made in such a manner as to secure a perfect and durable contact. Continuous wires (without joints) to used as far as possible. Are lights must be protected by glass globes, enclosed at the bottom to prevent the fall of ignited particles, and where inflammable materials are present below the lamps, a wire netting must be added to keep the parts of the globe in place in case of its fracture during use.

For incancescent lights, wherever a connection is made between a larger and a smaller conductor at the entrance to or within a building, some approved anterminated device must be introduced in the circuit of the smaller conductor, whereby it shall be interrupted whenever the current passing through it is in excess of its safe, carrying capacity. The safe carrying capacity of a wire is that current which it will convey without becoming painfully warm when grasped if the closed hand. Companies furnishing electricity from central stations must enter into an agreement with the New-York Board of Fire Underwriters, binding themselves to test their lines for ground connections at least once every day (and preferably three times a day), and to report the result of such tests to this Board weekly. Means by which those in charge of the dynamo electric machines will be warned of any excessive flow of current, or means whereby the same will be automatically checked, must in all cases be provided.

An Insurance of the fire insurance companies

AN INSURANCE MAN WHO IS NOT AFRAID. several officers of the fire insurance companies were seen with a view to learning their opinions on the subject of electric lighting and in nearly all cases they expressed the opinion that with proper care and, as far as might be, perfect insulation, the electric light is the best method of illumination at the present time. A. Colson, secretary of the New-York Insurance Company, of No. 72 Wall-st., said: "Per-

present time. A. Colson, secretary of the New-York Insurance Company, of No. 72 Wall-st., said: "Personally, I have not given much attention to the details of the electric light plant as supplied to buildings, or to the methods employed in putting it in, but I think that when the new rules of the Board of Underwriters are in force and the experiments now in progress are completed, safety from fire will be much increased. The custom is for the electric lighting companies to advise the underwriters when they intend to place electric equipment in a building. The underwriters then send a surveyor, who inspects the plant and if satisfactory, he grants a certificate to that effect, which is forwarded to the insurance company which effects the insurance.

So you will readily see that the insurance officers individually place entire confidence in the report of the Board's surveyor and the various companies do not keep expert electricfans to make inspections of the equipment for themselves. Of course there are danger of fire from electric wires than from gas and not so much as from the old kerosone lamp, which was a productive source of fires. Of course the insulation of a wire may get worn off in many ways and leave the wire exposed; then there is any extra risk attached to insuring property where wires are strung, and compedition in the insurance business is so great that no company will refuse business on slight defects, as some one else is always ready to take the risk."

IN FAVOR OF LECTRIC LIGHTS. IN FAVOR OF ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

An officer of the National Insurance Company, of An officer of the National Institute 185 pinests, said: "Electric lighting systems so far are in their infancy and new discoveries are made every day toward perfecting their equipment. If I had time I could find interesting records of fires caused by electricity, and my company has had several losses by electricity, and my company has had several losses.

by electricity, and my company has had several losses from this source in Boston. I think electric light wires are a great source of danger at such times as the bitzard of last March, and I do not believe that even insurance men fully appreciate the extent of the risks they ran at that time. I believe that when insists they ran at that time. I believe that when insists they ran at that time. I believe that when insists is more perfect the electric light will be the best fillumination we can got, but I am not expertenough to offer an opinion on the details of equipmental we leave all that to the surveyor for the Board of Undorwriters.

Manager Henry H. Hall, of the Northern Assurance Company, No. 25 Pine-st., said: "I believe the electric light to be by far the best and safest means of illumination invented up to the present day. Of course it is a recent invention and improvements are made all the time to perfect its safety. There is danger where the insulation of wire is worn away,

Roani of Underwriters, when completed, will doubteless, if strictly compiled with, reduce the risks materially."

Managor Edward F. Beddall, of the Royal Insurance Company, No. 50 Wall-si., said: "My company relies on the certificate of the surveyor for the underwriters in cases where electric lighting is concerned, and we add to the policy granted the following clause: "Privileged to use electric lights in the above mentioned premises when the entire equipment is in full compliance with the standard of the New-York Board of Pire Underwriters, adopted January 12, 1882, and a certificate is obtained from said board to that effect. It being understood that no alteration shall be made in the equipment after certificate is issued without written consent from said Board.

"It would be impossible for the insurance companies to keep their own experts to make these surveys of wires, as almost every new building has electric wires for some purpose and it would take an army of men to inspect all of them. The origin of a fire is in most cases a surmise and unless there is some visible proof of oil or inflammable material being about the premises, if there are toose wires hanging around-the building, many fires are attributed to electricity, as I said, on surmise. I think that when the electric plant is better developed the risk of fire will be reduced to a minimum. Like other insurance men I am too busy to study this subject in its minute details, but whatever its dangers may be, and there are undoubtedly many, I think with proper care and precaution the electric light is as safe as gas."

"Do you insist on the compliance with the terms of your electric light privileges?" was asked.

"Yos, generally, but rather than lose business we sometimes strike out the words 'when the entire equipment is in full compliance with the standard of the New-York Board of Fire Underwriters and a certificate is obtained from said board to that effect. We cannot be any more strict than our competitors or we could not succeed in business."

Vice-President J. H. Washburn, of the Home Insurance Company, said: "The principal danger arises from defective insulation, and my impression is that most of the fires attributed to electricity are attributable to that. Perfect insulation is as impossible as

most of the fires attributed to electricity are attributable to that. Perfect insulation is as impossible as perpetual motion, and the only remedy is more frequent inspection by the electric lighting companies of the work done and closer inspection by the insurance companies. For insuring safety all wires should be accessible at all points, and concealed wires should never be used, as it is impossible to inspect them. Are lights are dangerous, owing to dropping sparks, and should be covered in both at the top and the bottom. Electric light, properly put into a building and carefully insulated, is probably the safest light in use, but unless those conditions are complied with it is more dangerous than gas. The Board of Underwriters now grants no certificates of safety, except where its surveyor has examined the wires and they are found to be accessible at all points, but where the light is used outside the jurisdiction of the Board the insurance companies have to take the word of the people who put in the wires.

"Many policies were issued by companies where no certificate of safety had been granted, but that was before the dangers of the light were so well known. Our losses by fires from electric light have not been sufficient to cause any considerable alarm, but in saying so I would add that electric light plants at the various companies' stations have proved most disastrous to the insurance companies. No expense should be spared in putting in electric wires, but responsible wiring companies only should be employed. It is one of those cases where parismeny is not conomy to any of those interested. I do not think combination lighting by both gas and electricity is extra hazardous if proper attention is paid to insulation."

Mr. Washburn showed the reporter a place in the from roof of the company's vaults where the wires were strung and inclosed in a wooden moulding, which was charred away, and said that they could not account for the circumstance, as every precaution had been taken to make the insulation as per

WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE EDISON

Edward H. Johnson, president of the Edison Electric Light Company, No. 16 Broad-st., whose experience extends over a wide field, when asked for his views by extends over a wide field, when asked for his views by the reporter, said: "The danger of fire from electric lighting is, of course, materially less than from gas or any other method of artificial illumination. But the danger, nevertheless exists, and it should be always intelligently guarded against by the electric lighting companies, the wiring contractors, and the users. The function of the electric lighting company, in this respect, is to establish rules and regulations for the guidance of the wiring contractors, and to educate the public generally as to the proper means to employ in dealing with this modern method of illuminating; that of the wiring contractors is to observe such rules and regulations, to employ in their work only the best material and the most intelligent labor. The duty of the consumer is to assure himself, first, that he is dealing with a reputable electric light company; second, that the wiring contractors whom he selects are responsible and properly authorized by the company whose light is to be used; and, third, that the work of installing his wires and fixtures is done in accordance with the established rules and regulations, of which he can get sufficient evidence through the inspection of the properly accredited officers of the Board of Fire Underwriters. Given a careful observance of these few and simple precautions, and the danger of fire from the incandescent electric light, as compared with the danger from any other artificial filluminant, is as one to 100.

A WARNING ABOUT INFLAMMABLE MATERIALS. the reporter, said: "The danger of fire from electric A WARNING ABOUT INFLAMMABLE MATERIALS.

"The only fires caused by the electric current supplied by a reputable electric light co have come within my personal knewledge have been caused by a lack of observance of some one or more of these precautions. There is one other point to which I think it well to call attention, particularly in view of the general introduction of the incandescent light into the private homes of the city now in progress. of the general introduction of the incandescent light into the private homes of the city now in progress. The almost total absence of heat in the incandescent lemp has led to an erroneous assumption that none exists. This mistaken idea, accompanied by the fact that the incandescent lamp lends itself so readily to omamental treatment, not infrequently leads to the enveloping of the lamp in inflammable materials. This should be guarded against, for, although its true that a delicate lace handkerehief may be thrown carclessly over the lamp at times without injury, it is equally true that to envelop such a lamp with such material would cause gradually the accumulation of an amount of heat sufficient to ignite the material. This is no condemnation of the incandescent lamp, for were it possible to envelop the sun's rays in a filte manner the same result would follow. The watchwords of those who are concerned in the matter of 'safeguarding' against fire from electric lighting should be: 'intelligence, responsibility and first-class material.' OPINIONS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

J. Elliot Smith, superintendent of the fire alarm telegraph, was of the opinion, however, that there was no more danger in tighting a house by electricity, was no more danger in figuring a house of the than by gas, when due care was taken with the work.

"The essential point in connection with this," he said, "is perfect insulation of the leading wires and freedom from contact with metallic substances, such as gas-pipes, water-pipes, and the like, together with absolute protection from moisture. All of these pro-visions are covered by the one expression-proper

visions are covered by the one expression-proper insulation. There are various kinds of insulation which fill these requirements."

The officers of the Fire Department hold similar views regarding the electric light. "Since I have been in office," said the Fire Marshal, "there has been no case of fire whose origin could be traced to the electric light. If, as you say, there were twenty-two fire; caused by electricity in the year 1887, it would seem to me to be a large percentage, but we have no record of the number of houses so lighted. Of course dauger to a certain extent is ever present. The blowing of the wind even will wear upon the wires and finally destroy the insulation. There is nothing which is absolute proof against the ravages of time or the effect of the atmosphere, and when the insulation is injured fire can of course result, if the wires come in contact with combustible material." Fire Commissioner Fitz John Porter and the secretary, Carl Jussen, believed the danger remote when the work was properly done and the insulation accomplished according to the improved methods.

WHAT "CHAMPAGNE FRAPPE" MEANS. From The St. Louis Republican.

There is a young fellow in one of the Departments in Washington who has become so much of a low-tartfe There is a young fellow in one of the Departments in Washington who has become so much of a low-tastic man that he feels bound to occasionally indulge in a champagne frappe in order to inspire him when he explains the merits of the system. He has been trying to convert to his way of thinking a man almost old enough to be his father. For more than a year he has been arguing with the old fellow, but the latter has been arguing with the old fellow, but the latter has been arguing with the old fellow, but the latter has been arguing with the old fellow, but the latter has been arguing with the old fellow, but the latter has been arguing with the old fellow, but the latter has been in the latter has been a latter has been a

beer."

"No wonder you can't see these things. The next time you get paid off come go with me and we will have chamagne frappe till you can't rest."

The old man thinks himself something of a French scholar, but he was unable to tell what frappe meant. Finally, he got hold of a French dectionary, and the next time he met his low-tariff friend he said: "Look here, I find by consulting the dictionary the verb trapper, which means to 'knock out." Is that the kind of champagne you have been telling me about?"

"That must be it. The kind I get 'knucks out' be youd a doubt."

From The Cleveland Leader.

A pretty good story was heard yesterday concerning a well-known stock-broker, whose autograin is fundiar on several of the hotel registers. The gentleman in question does business in the clif, and is the owner of a beautiful house in a suburban town. When he erected this magnificent house it set all the village neighbors to goeslping, it was wondered what business the owner was ongaged in. In fact, there were many anxious inquicles on this score. One evening one of the interested ladies asked her husband:

"What business is Mr.——engaged in "
"Why, he keeps a bucket shop in the city," was the reply.

"Why, he keeps a bucket shop in the city," was the reply.

"Oh, yes."

A few evenings later a tea party was held at a certain house, and the ladies, of course, began to discuss the affairs of their neighbors. Suddenly one of them said:

"I would like to know what Mr. — who built that new house, does for a living!"

This was a chance for the wise lady, and any poplied: "Oh, I know: he has a pail factory in Cleveland, and does a big business."

This was satisfactory, and the story has been coins the rounds gver since.